



United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V  
POLLUTION REPORT

**Date:** Tuesday, October 31, 2006

**From:** Craig Thomas, OSC

**To:** linda Nachowicz, U.S. EPA

Michael Harris, U.S. EPA

**Subject:** Initiation of Action  
Reliable Plating Corporation  
1514 West Lake St, Chicago, IL

<b>POLREP No.:</b>	1	<b>Site #:</b>	
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	10/23/06-10/31/06	<b>D.O. #:</b>	
<b>Start Date:</b>	10/23/2006	<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA
<b>Mob Date:</b>	10/23/2006	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Completion Date:</b>		<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL
<b>CERCLIS ID #:</b>		<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>RCRIS ID #:</b>		<b>Contract #</b>	

**Site Description**

On October 23, 2006 at approximately 4:00 a.m. Central Time, a fire erupted at the Reliable Plating Corp facility located at 1514 West Lake Street in Chicago, IL. The fire department and Chicago Department of Environment (CDOE) responded. At approximately 7:45 am, U.S. EPA Region 5 received a call from Terry Sheahan with CDOE requesting assistance to address run-off from the fire. Initial testing of the run off showed pH readings of up to 13.

OSC Thomas responded to the incident and arrived on scene at approximately 8:20 am. OSC Thomas met with Terry Sheahan, Ed Osowski with Illinois EPA, and James Chodora of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Mr. Chodora arranged for run off which was draining into the sanitary sewer to be diverted to Chicago's Deep Tunnel until such time as it could be analyzed. The contaminants of concern were identified as acids, bases, cyanides, copper, nickel and chromium.

The Chicago Transit Authority wished to open the Ashland stop on the Green Line elevated train, which was located within 100 feet of the burning facility. It was decided that this should be delayed until further air monitoring was conducted, and the integrity of the process vats could be determined.

At approximately 11:30, the fire was completely extinguished and the Chicago Fire Department relinquished control of the response to CDOE. U.S. EPA, Illinois EPA and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District are working in an advisory role to CDOE.

It is anticipated that the entire clean up of 17,000 square foot facility may take 1-2 weeks.

A unified command has been established with CDOE as the lead agency. In addition to CDOE, U.S. EPA is also working with ATF, Chicago Fire Dept. and various other Chicago agencies, Illinois EPA, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

The vicinity immediately around the burned plating facility (1514 West Lake Street) is being fenced off. The RP's contractors are providing security.

SET and demolition contractor (Robinette) are working with ATF and the Chicago Fire Department's Office of Fire Investigation to remove rubble and start approaching the plating lines to determine where the fire originated and begin removing liquids from individual vats.

The Chicago Fire Department/ Office of Fire Investigation will investigate after the removal is complete.

#### **Current Activities**

- 1)) The remaining cyanide solids and liquids were removed from the destroyed plating facility.
- 2) The CTA Ashland Green Line Station was reopened between 2:00 -2:30 pm on October 25th
- 3) Removal of additional caustic liquids from process vats is ongoing.
- 4) Contractors cleaned the alley behind the plating facility, and pumped liquids from the basement of the plating facility.

#### **Planned Removal Actions**

After waste profiles are generated, fire water, cyanide solutions, and alkaline solutions will be sent for disposal at approved facilities. Gold, Silver and Nickel cyanide solutions will be sent for reclamation.

Demolition debris from the building (brick, structural steel, etc) will be sampled so that waste profiles can be generated for these materials.

#### **Next Steps**

- 1) Finish removal of liquids from plating vats.
- 2) Allow Chicago Fire Department's Office Of Fire Investigation to complete their causal evaluation of the fire.
- 3) Have waste profiles made of all materials awaiting disposal.
- 4) Dispose of material at properly approved facilities.

5) Sample beneath building footprint to determine if soils have been impacted.

### Key Issues

Several attempts have been made to have the owner of a home at 210 Justine Ave provide entry into the basement of a residence at this location. The basement may have been affected by contaminated run off. An evaluation will be made and clean up will be conducted as necessary, once access is finally obtained.

### Estimated Costs \*

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

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